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25X1

1. The Central Offices for Foreign Trade (Centrala Handlu Zagranicznego), which come under the authority and direction of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, play an essential part in Poland's foreign trade by carrying on export or import or both export and import trade negotiations. The Central Offices, of which there are about 30 or 40, are monopolistic state enterprises (Przedsiębiorstwa Państwowe) charged with conducting trade with foreign countries through foreign firms approved financially and politically by the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Many of these foreign firms act as propaganda channels for the Communist Party and help acquire for Poland critical materials such as non-ferrous metals, precision instruments, tools and machines. The Central Offices are actually business houses in government ownership with a monopoly on export or import of particular products.
2. The Central Offices submit to the Ministry of Foreign Trade import and export plans based on the production of the industry and needs of the country. The Central Offices hold preliminary conferences with the representatives of industrial enterprises and with the Central Offices for Domestic Trade. The plans prepared on the basis of these conferences are submitted to the Department of Planning and Coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Trade for coordination with the needs of the Ministry and its political and economic policies. The Department of Planning and Coordination submits the plans in final form to the State Commission for Economic Planning (Państwowa Komisja Planowania Gospodarczego - PKPG). In PKPG, conferences are held at which the final plans are elaborated upon. At these conferences active participants include: representatives of PKPG (Minister Wang is usually chairman at the conferences), representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, representatives of the Ministry of Internal Trade and the representatives of industrial ministries. Representatives of the Central Offices for Foreign Trade and those of the Central Offices for Domestic Trade are present at these conferences as observers only. Copies of the import and export plans finally approved by PKPG are distributed by the Department of Planning and Coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Trade to all Central

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

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SECRET

-2-

Offices for both Foreign and Domestic Trade. The Central Offices for Foreign Trade are fully responsible for the fulfillment of the plans allotted to them. The export-import plans also define the direction of export or import and are in general in harmony with the international commitments.

3. The finding of buyers in satellite countries is not difficult because the buyers are similar Central Offices for Trade responsible in their respective countries for the acquisition of goods listed in international trade pacts. The work of the Central Offices in these cases is limited to the fulfillment of formal contracts and to the proper timely deposition of bills and delivery documents in the banks. The situation is different in deals with capitalistic countries, depending on whether the payment is on a clearing basis or for free currency. In both cases the Central Trade Office must find the buyer who is not only the most solvent, but who would buy large quantities of goods and can obtain from his government an import license without difficulty.
 4. Generally, each Central Trade Office has its own individual agent abroad. However, in some cases, for instance in Italy, Finland and Sweden, foreign firms acting as agents represent the interests of all or at least of the majority of Central Trade Offices dealing with those countries, collecting an average of three per cent of the value of an exported shipment. In Italy, for example, the well known large business house "Siemes" in Rome is really the agent for all Central Offices for Foreign Trade. The firm gets a commission of about three per cent of the total value of all goods exported by Poland to Italy. The firm is controlled by the Italian Communists, and the connection of Siemes with the Polish Central Offices for Foreign Trade affords a channel through which Communist propaganda flows. One of the chief functionaries of the Siemes firm is Italian Senator Reale, of the Italian Communist Party.
- Larger foreign firms exporting to Poland have agencies in Poland. Private enterprise cannot function in Poland, but certain foreign business institutions are allowed to exist as private firms, although actually they are under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Firms in Poland representing foreign firms include: Transaktor, Timex, Intexim, Diplomex (which takes care of the supplies, furniture, office supplies, etc. of the Polish diplomatic posts abroad, under the Ministry for Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
5. All of the Central Offices for Foreign Trade are organized on the same pattern.

- (a) Central Office for Coal Trade -- Export Bureau in Katowice (Centrala Zbytu Węgla Biuro Eksportowe w Katowicach). In 1951 the total Polish coal production amounted to 82 million metric tons, and coal was exported to the USSR, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Albania through this Central Office. France did not want any coal in 1951.
- (b) Central Import-Export Office for Chemicals, known as CIECH (Centrala Importowo-Eksportowa Chemikali). Director: Mieczyslaw Gutmacher. This office imports chemicals, pharmaceuticals, dyes, fertilizers, potassium salts, calcined soda, arsenic, lithopone, a white paint for ships (Zn+BaSO₄), caustic soda (NaOH), and carbon electrodes. It exports some Polish-made dyes to Bulgaria.
- (c) Central Office for Import of Ball Bearings (Centrala Importu Łozysk Kulkowych-CEBIŁOZ). Director: Engineer Jerzy Hubel. Ball bearings are imported from Sweden.
- (d) Central Office for Wood Products Industry - Export Bureau (Centrala Handlowa Przemysłu Drzewnego-Biuro Eksportowe). Present director unknown, but former director was Czeslaw Grabowski, who was transferred and now holds a position in the Ministry of Foreign Trade. This Office exports furniture and wood products.

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-3-

- (e) Papexport, Central Office for Export of Paper and Paper Products, (Centrala Eksportu Papieru i Wytworow z Papieru). Director unknown. This Office exports tomofan (like cellophane) and calkomania (used in the porcelain industry for decalomania).
 - (f) Impexmetal, in Katowice, imports metals.
 - (g) Centrord, in Katowice, imports ores.
 - (h) Central Office for Oil Products - Import Bureau (Centrala Produktow Naftowych - Biuro Importowe). Director: Czeslaw Danczak.
 - (i) Metalexport Central Office, Warsaw. Director: Nawrot (fnu). This Office exports metal products, including iron bars, nails, machines, enamelled goods, etc.
 - (j) Polimex, Central Import Office for Machines and Tools (Centrala Importu Maszyn in Narzedow). Director: Kolarski (fnu). Imports all kinds of machines and precision instruments.
 - (k) Varimex, Central Import-Export Office for Miscellaneous Articles (Centrala Importow-Eksportowa Artykulow Roznych). Director: Stanislaw Maksimowicz.
 - (l) Dalspo, Central Export Office for Food Products (Centrala Eksportowa Artykulow Spozywczych). Director: Tadeusz Malewiak. Exports fresh and dry vegetables, fruit products, butter, eggs, etc.
 - (m) Dal Central Office. Director: L. Tyszka. Functions as mediator in the completion of compensatory trade pacts (barter), carried out by the respective Central Office which has a monopoly on the sale or purchase of certain goods.
 - (n) Animex exports forest and field products, mushrooms, berries. It also exports and sometimes imports grains.
 - (o) Minex, Central Import-Export Office for Mineral Industry Products (Centrala Importowo-Eksportowa Wytworow Przemyslu Mineralnego). Acting Director: Ludwik Wallach. Minex exports glass, ceramic and mineral products.
 - (p) Polfracht, which acts as broker in chartering ships for sea transport. Until the end of 1951 Polfracht was under the Ministry of Navigation. In 1952 it was transferred to the authority of the Ministry of Foreign Trade.
6. The employees of the Central Offices for Foreign Trade belong to the Union of Trade and Office Employees (Zwiazek Pracownikow Handlowych i Biurowych), while the employees of the Ministry of Foreign Trade belong to the Union of Government Employees (Zwiazek Pracownikow Rzadowych).

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